

# TESTING 123

*Updates for teachers from the MDE Statewide Testing Division*

[June 3, 2019]

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## Testing 1-2-3 Update!

[Testing 1, 2, 3](#) is a new website that will officially launch in August. The website was designed to help Minnesota educators effectively use data and assessment in the classroom. The website is live, but new features and improvements will continue to be added throughout the summer.

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## Test Administration Information

The week of May 13, MDE and Pearson held feedback meetings in Mankato, St. Cloud, and the metro. The following information was shared at the meetings.

- More than 1 million tests were administered in Minnesota.
- MCA 2019 counts by subject:
  - Reading: 451,744
  - Mathematics: 445,064
  - Science: 190,160
- MCA 2019 device usage breakdown:
  - iPads: 42%
  - Chromebooks: 38%
  - Mac desktop/laptop: 13%
  - Windows desktop/laptop: 7%
  - Other: < 1%

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## Sharing Preliminary Results

School districts determine whether or not to share preliminary assessment data with students, families, and staff for instructional purposes. Please contact your District Assessment Coordinator for your district's policy on sharing preliminary results.

Regardless of your district's policy, preliminary results may not be discussed in public forums, reflected in public meeting minutes (e.g., school board meetings), or shared with the general public or media until the final assessment results have been released publicly.

Individually identifying student results should not be shared publicly at any point as required under FERPA regulations. Student-level results should be shared only with those who have a legitimate educational interest or others who are permitted by the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act or FERPA to access private educational data.

For more information, see Chapter 10 of the [Procedures Manual](#) (PearsonAccess Next > Resources & Training > Policies and Procedures).

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## Refusal Guide and Form Updated for 2019–20

The updated [Parent/Guardian Guide and Refusal for Student Participation in Statewide Testing](#) is now available on the MDE website. Districts will use the updated form for the 2019–20 school year and should post the complete, three-page form on the district website and include it in the student handbook.

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## Upcoming Opportunities

### Summer Advisory Panelists Needed

MDE needs your help! As summer approaches, qualified teachers are needed for the MCA advisory panels. Summer is a great time for teachers to participate in an additional professional development opportunity; additionally, stipends and travel reimbursements are available.

More information about this opportunity is available on the [Advisory Panels webpage](#) (MDE website > Districts, Schools and Educators > Teaching and Learning > Statewide Testing > Register for Advisory Panels).

## Field Test Opportunity: WIDA's New Kindergarten Screener

WIDA is looking for schools to participate in the field test of a new Kindergarten Screener during the window of Jan. 6–Feb. 28, 2020. If you are interested in participating in this field test, please contact your DAC for more information about how your district can participate.

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## Important Ideas and Research in School Assessment and Data

This section of the newsletter is designed to keep educators well-informed on current research and best practices. In each issue, 2-4 articles will be featured here that have relevant ideas to improve teaching, leadership, and learning in relation to data and assessment in the classroom.

### Pushing Back on Outmoded Beliefs

In this article in *Leaderboard: Michigan Association of School Boards*, Kim Marshall suggests updates to erroneous beliefs that persist among some educators and stakeholders, including the belief that *Tests don't enhance learning*. Fierce attacks on standardized testing may be blinding us to the benefits of assessments closer to the classroom, says Marshall. Effective teachers check for understanding and fix learning problems in real time; leverage peer instruction after tests; shift students from fixed to growth mindset about difficulties and failures; and use test data to compare notes with colleagues and improve instruction. Read the full article "Pushing Back on Outmoded Beliefs" from the [Spring 2019 Leaderboard on the Michigan Association of School Boards website](#).

### Seven Mistakes that Matter

In this new book published in April 2019, *Driven by Data 2.0*, Paul Bambrick-Santoyo outlines "The Seven Mistakes that Matter." He forms his argument based on observations of schools that have developed systems for teacher teams to analyze results from interim assessments. The "mistakes" he identifies are: *inferior assessments, secretive interim assessments, too-frequent assessments, curriculum/assessment disconnect, delayed results, separation of analysis and re-teaching, and not making time for data*. The results of this data driven philosophy are clearly outlined in the book through many inspirational success stories.

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## Statewide Testing's Mission

To design, develop, and implement a system of assessment so Minnesota students, parents, teachers, administrators, legislators and taxpayers will have access to valid and reliable data to support and improve education in Minnesota.



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